

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for prion decontamination of an entity comprising
  - (i) contacting said entity with a detergent,
  - (ii) contacting said entity with a protease, and optionally
  - 5 (iii) autoclaving said entity.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the protease is selected from a group consisting of protease and peptidase enzymes belonging to class E.C. 3.4.-.- as defined by the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and  
10 Molecular Biology.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the protease is selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.
- 15 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the protease is pronase.
5. A method according to claim 3 wherein the protease is ProteinaseK.
6. A method for prion decontamination comprising
  - 20 (i) contacting an entity to be decontaminated with a detergent,
  - (ii) contacting said entity with a first protease,
  - (iii) contacting said entity with a second protease, and optionally
  - (iv) autoclaving said entity.
- 25 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the first and second proteases are selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is papain.

9. A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is ProteinaseK and the second protease is pronase.
10. A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is ProteinaseK.
11. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the detergent is an ionic detergent.
12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the detergent is an anionic detergent.
13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the detergent is SDS.
14. A method according to any preceding claim wherein said entity comprises a surface.
15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said surface is a surface of a medical instrument.
16. A method according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein said surface comprises metal.
17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said metal is steel.
18. A kit comprising detergent and a protease selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.
19. A kit according to claim 18 comprising two or more said proteases.
20. A kit according to claim 18 or 19 wherein said detergent is SDS

21. A composition comprising an ionic detergent and one or more proteases selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

22. A composition according to claim 21 comprising two or more said proteases.

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23. A composition according to claim 21 or 22 wherein said detergent is SDS.